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DIGEO, INC. 8815 122ND NE KIRKLAND, WA 98033			LAMBRECHT, CHRISTOPHER M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2611	

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/818,085

**Applicant(s)**

MILLER ET AL.

**Examiner**

Christopher M Lambrecht

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/5/2002</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: On line 4 of claim 5, the text “light-sensing” should be replaced with “light emitting”. Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,305,464 to Frett (hereinafter “Frett”).

With regard to claim 1, Frett teaches an apparatus (channel identifier apparatus 12, fig. 1) for determining a channel state of a set-top box (receiver 20, fig. 1) (col. 3, ll. 36-45 & col. 2, ll. 7-10), the apparatus comprising: a sensing stage (light sensor 22, fig. 1) capable to detect light intensity from various positions on a display (LED display 18, fig. 1) (col. 3, ll. 51-55) and generating output signals (data, col. 5, ll. 2-5) based on light intensity detected from each of the various positions (col. 5, ll. 20-31); a comparison stage (microprocessor 28, fig. 3) communicatively coupled to the sensing stage (via line 38, fig. 3) and capable to generate digital values by comparison of each generated output signals with a threshold value (ambient light reference, col. 5, ll. 24-25) (where a determination is made as to “whether” light from the LED is being transmitted, col. 5, ll. 28-31, the result is binary, i.e., “is or is not”, and is therefore inherently represented by a digital value); and an interface (communication device 42, fig. 3) communicatively coupled (via microprocessor 28, fig. 3) to the sensing stage (22, fig. 3) and capable to

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generate a feedback signal based upon the digital values to indicate a channel state of the set-top box (col. 6, ll. 24-32).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frett in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,303,063 to Kim et al. (hereinafter "Kim").

With regard to claim 2, Frett discloses the apparatus of claim 1 (see above), but fails to the feedback signal is transmitted to a companion box device for processing, thereby permitting the companion box device to detect the channel state of the set top box.

In an analogous art, Kim discloses providing a feedback signal (col. 5, ll. 41-46) to a companion box device (VCR 200, fig. 2a) for processing, thereby permitting the companion box device to detect the channel state of a set top box (col. 5, ll. 29-35), for the purpose of enabling the VCR to determine whether or not the cable box is responding to the appropriate commands (col. 5, ll. 5-27).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Frett such that the feedback signal is transmitted to a companion box device for processing, thereby permitting the companion box device to detect the channel state of the set top box, as taught by Kim, for the purpose of enabling the VCR to determine whether or not the cable box is responding to the appropriate commands and ensuring proper recording of the desired program.

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With regard to claim 6, Frett discloses a method of determining a channel state of a set top box (col. 3, ll. 55-60), the method comprising: detecting states of light emitting devices in a display of a set top box (col. 3, ll. 51-60); generating an analog value based on each detected state (col. 7, ll. 13-18, where the resistance exhibited by a photo-resistive wire is an analog value); comparing each analog value with a threshold value (ambient light reference level, col. 5, ll. 24-25) and generating a digital value (i.e., the result of the comparison between ambient light reference level and the measured level for a particular segment of the display) for each compared analog value (col. 7, ll. 10-18); and transmitting a bit stream having the generated digital values representative of a channel state of the set top box (col. 6, ll. 21-32). Frett fails to disclose transmitting the values to a companion box to determine a channel state of the set top box.

In an analogous art, Kim discloses transmitting data to a companion box to determine a channel state of the set top box (col. 5, ll. 28-35), for the purpose of enabling the VCR to determine whether or not the cable box is responding to the appropriate commands (col. 5, ll. 5-27).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Frett to include transmitting the values to a companion box to determine a channel state of the set top box, as taught by Kim, for the purpose of enabling the VCR to determine whether or not the cable box is responding to the appropriate commands and ensuring proper recording of the desired program.

6. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frett in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,812,102 to Sprole, Jr. et al. (hereinafter "Sprole").

With regard to claim 3, Frett discloses the apparatus of claim 1, but fails to disclose the sensing stage comprises a plurality of light sensing devices, each of the light sensing devices capable to detect light intensity at a corresponding position on the display.

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In an analogous art, Sprole discloses a sensing stage comprising a plurality of light sensing devices (primary photo-transistors 112, 122, 132, 142, 152, 162, and 172, fig. 5), each of the light sensing devices capable to detect light intensity at a corresponding position on the display (col. 4, l. 65 – col. 5, l. 6), for the purpose of improving detection accuracy by enabling the monitoring system to determine individually the operational status of each led segment (col. 7, ll. 34-43).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the sensing stage of Frett to include a plurality of light sensing devices, each of the light sensing devices capable to detect light intensity at a corresponding position on the display, as taught by Sprole, for the purpose of improving detection accuracy when monitoring the channel display.

As for claim 4, Frett discloses the apparatus of claim 1, but fails to disclose the sensing stage comprises an array of light sensing devices capable to detect light intensity at the various positions on the display.

In an analogous art, Sprole discloses a sensing stage comprising an array of light sensing devices (primary photo-transistors 112, 122, 132, 142, 152, 162, and 172, fig. 5) capable to detect light intensity at the various positions on the display (col. 4, l. 65 – col. 5, l. 6), for the purpose of improving detection accuracy by enabling the monitoring system to determine individually the operational status of each led segment (col. 7, ll. 34-43).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the sensing stage of Frett to include an array of light sensing devices capable to detect light intensity at the various positions on the display, as taught by Sprole, for the purpose of improving detection accuracy when monitoring the channel display.

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7. Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frett in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,923,362 to Klosterman (hereinafter "Klosterman").

With regard to claim 5, Frett discloses an apparatus (channel identifier apparatus 12, fig. 1) for detecting a channel state of a set top box (receiver 20, fig. 1) (col. 3, ll. 36-45 & col. 2, ll. 7-10), the apparatus comprising: a sensing stage (light sensor 22, fig. 1) capable to sense output light from a plurality of light emitting elements in a display of a set top box (LED display 18, fig. 1) (col. 3, ll. 51-55); an engine (microprocessor 28, fig. 3) capable to determine a channel state of the display based on the output (col. 5, ll. 46-53). Frett fail to disclose a channel state analysis engine capable to compare the determined channel state with a desired channel state; and a response engine capable to send a change channel command to the set-top box if the determined channel state does not match the desired channel state.

In an analogous art, Klosterman discloses a channel state analysis engine capable to compare the determined channel state with a desired channel state (col. 7, ll. 58-63); and a response engine capable to send a change channel command to the set-top box if the determined channel state does not match the desired channel state (col. 7, ll. 63-65), for the purpose of enabling automatic unattended recording of a broadcast program (col. 8, ll. 44-54).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Frett to include a channel state analysis engine capable to compare the determined channel state with a desired channel state; and a response engine capable to send a change channel command to the set-top box if the determined channel state does not match the desired channel state, as taught by Klosterman, for the purpose of enabling automatic unattended recording of a broadcast program.

With regard to claim 7, Frett discloses a method of determining a channel state of a set top box, the method comprising: detecting states of light emitting devices in a display of a set top box; generating a feedback signal based on the detected states; determining a channel state of the set top box based on the feedback signal. Frett fails to disclose comparing the determined channel state with a desired channel state.

In an analogous art, Klosterman discloses comparing the determined channel state with a desired channel state (col. 7, ll. 58-63), for the purpose of enabling automatic unattended recording of a broadcast program (col. 8, ll. 44-54).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Frett to include comparing the determined channel state with a desired channel state, as taught by Klosterman, for the purpose of enabling automatic unattended recording of a broadcast program.

8. Claims 8-10, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Klosterman, in view of Frett, and further in view of Sprole.

With regard to claim 8, Kim discloses a set top box channel state system, comprising: a companion box device (VCR 200, fig. 2b) including an infrared blaster capable to send commands via an IR beam to the set top box (210, fig. 2b) (col. 6, ll. 9-11). Kim fails to disclose a device including a plurality of light-sensing elements communicatively coupled to a display of a set top box, the display including a plurality of light emitting devices; and said companion box including a character recognition engine capable to determine set top box channel state as displayed on the display based on the output of the light-sensing elements, a channel state analysis engine communicatively coupled to the character recognition engine and capable to determine if the channel state matches a desired channel state, and a response engine communicatively coupled to the analysis engine and the IR blaster and capable to



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command the IR blaster to send a change channel command via IR beam to the set top box if the channel state does not match the desired channel state.

In an analogous art, Klosterman discloses a channel state analysis engine capable to determine if the channel state matches a desired channel state (col. 7, ll. 60-63), and a response engine communicatively coupled to the analysis engine and an IR blaster (col. 4, ll. 20-33) and capable to command the IR blaster to send a change channel command via IR beam to the set top box if the channel state does not match the desired channel state (col. 7, ll. 63-65), for the purpose of enabling automatic unattended recording of a broadcast program (col. 8, ll. 44-54).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the companion box of Kim to include a channel state analysis engine communicatively capable to determine if the channel state matches a desired channel state, and a response engine communicatively coupled to the analysis engine and the IR blaster and capable to command the IR blaster to send a change channel command via IR beam to the set top box if the channel state does not match the desired channel state, as taught by Klosterman, for the purpose of enabling automatic unattended recording of a broadcast program. Kim and Klosterman fail to disclose a device including a plurality of light-sensing elements communicatively coupled to a display of a set top box, the display including a plurality of light emitting devices; and said companion box including a character recognition engine capable to determine set top box channel state as displayed on the display based on the output of the light-sensing elements.

In an analogous art, Frett discloses a device including a light-sensing element (22, fig. 1) communicatively coupled to a display (18, fig. 1) of a set top box (20, fig. 1), the display including a plurality of light emitting devices (LED's, col. 4, ll. 1-3) (col. 3, ll. 32-60); said device including a character recognition engine capable to determine set top box channel state as displayed on the display

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based on the output of the light-sensing element (col. 5, ll. 46-53), for the purpose of providing a non-obtrusive method and apparatus for determining the channel to which a receiver is tuned (col. 2, ll. 7-11).

Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Kim and Klosterman to include a device including a light-sensing elements communicatively coupled to a display of a set top box, the display including a plurality of light emitting devices; and said companion box including a character recognition engine capable to determine set top box channel state as displayed on the display based on the output of the light-sensing elements, as taught by Frett, for the purpose of providing a non-obtrusive method and apparatus for determining the channel to which a receiver is tuned. Kim, Klosterman, and Frett fail to disclose the light-sensing device includes a plurality of light sensing elements.

In an analogous art, Sprole discloses a light-sensing element comprising a plurality of light sensing devices (primary phototransistors 112, 122, 132, 142, 152, 162, and 172, fig. 5), for the purpose of improving detection accuracy by enabling the monitoring system to determine individually the operational status of each led segment (col. 7, ll. 34-43).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Kim, Klosterman, and Frett to include a plurality of light sensing devices, as taught by Sprole; for the purpose of improving detection accuracy by enabling the monitoring system to determine individually the operational status of each led segment.

As for claim 9, Kim, Klosterman, Frett, and Sprole together disclose the system of claim 8. In addition, Sprole discloses the plurality of light-sensing elements is equal in number to the plurality of light emitting devices in the display (each segment having corresponding primary phototransistor, col. 4, ll. 65-67).

As for claim 10, Kim, Klosterman, Frett and Sprole together disclose the system of claim 8. In addition, Sprole discloses the plurality of light-sensing elements are arranged in an array (see fig. 3).

As for claim 12, Kim, Klosterman, Frett and Sprole together disclose the system of claim 8. However, they fail to disclose the device includes a second display configured to display the set top box channel state.

Official notice is taken of the fact that it is well known in the art for a second display device (e.g., television) to display the channel state of the set top box (e.g., on a window or banner of an electronic programming guide, the channel number to which the set-top box is tuned is indicated), for the purpose of keeping the user informed of the channel to which the set-top box is tuned.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Kim, Klosterman, Frett and Sprole to include a second display configured to display the set top box channel state, for the purpose of keeping the user informed of the channel to which the set-top box is tuned.

As for claim 13, Kim, Klosterman, Frett and Sprole together disclose the system of claim 8. In addition, Sprole discloses the light sensing elements include photodiodes (col. 4, ll. 65-67, where phototransistors comprise photodiodes).

9. Claims 14-19, 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frett in view of Sprole and Klosterman.

With regard to claims 14, 22 and 26 Frett discloses means for, a method, and corresponding machine readable medium having stored thereupon instructions for carrying out a method for detecting a channel state of a set top box, the method comprising: sampling output from a light-sensing element

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coupled to a display of a set top box (col. 5, ll. 28-31); and determining a channel state of the display based on the output (col. 5, ll. 46-53). Frett fails to disclose a plurality of light sensing elements; comparing the determined channel state with a desired channel state; and sending a channel change command to the set top box if the determined state does not match the desired channel state.

In an analogous art, Sprole discloses a plurality of light sensing devices (primary phototransistors 112, 122, 132, 142, 152, 162, and 172, fig. 5), for the purpose of improving detection accuracy by enabling the monitoring system to determine individually the operational status of each led segment (col. 7, ll. 34-43).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Frett to include a plurality of light sensing devices, as taught by Sprole, for the purpose of improving detection accuracy by enabling the monitoring system to determine individually the operational status of each led segment. Frett and Sprole fail to disclose comparing the determined channel state with a desired channel state; and sending a channel change command to the set top box if the determined state does not match the desired channel state.

In an analogous art, Klosterman discloses comparing the determined channel state with a desired channel state; and sending a channel change command to the set top box if the determined state does not match the desired channel state (col. 7, ll. 60-65), for the purpose of enabling automatic unattended recording of a broadcast program (col. 8, ll. 44-54).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Frett and Sprole to include comparing the determined channel state with a desired channel state; and sending a channel change command to the set top box if the determined state does not match the desired channel state, as taught by Klosterman, for the purpose of enabling automatic unattended recording of a broadcast program

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As for claims 15 and 23, Frett, Sprole, and Klosterman together disclose the method of claim 14. In addition, Frett discloses determining the channel state includes using character recognition software (col. 5, ll. 46-53).

As for claims 16 and 24, Frett, Sprole and Klosterman together disclose the method of claim 14. In addition, Frett discloses the determining the channel state includes comparing the output with values in a look-up table (col. 5, l. 66 – col. 6, l. 20).

As for claim 17, Frett, Sprole and Klosterman together disclose the method of claim 14. In addition, Sprole discloses the light sensing elements are photodiodes (col. 4, ll. 65-67, where phototransistors comprise photodiodes).

As for claim 18, Frett, Sprole and Klosterman together disclose the method of claim 14. In addition, Sprole discloses the plurality of light sensing elements is equal in number to a plurality of light emitting devices in the display (each segment having corresponding primary phototransistor, col. 4, ll. 65-67).

As for claim 19, Frett, Sprole and Klosterman together disclose the method of claim 14. In addition, Sprole discloses the plurality of light sensing elements are arranged in an array (see fig. 3).

As for claim 21, Frett, Sprole and Klosterman together disclose the system of claim 14. However, they fail to disclose the device includes a second display configured to display the set top box channel state.

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Official notice is taken of the fact that it is well known in the art for a second display device (e.g., television) to display the channel state of the set top box (e.g., on a window or banner of an electronic programming guide, the channel number to which the set-top box is tuned is indicated), for the purpose of keeping the user informed of the channel to which the set-top box is tuned.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Frett, Sprole and Klosterman to include a second display configured to display the set top box channel state, for the purpose of keeping the user informed of the channel to which the set-top box is tuned.

As for claim 25, Frett, Sprole and Klosterman together disclose the system of claim 22. However, they fail to disclose an instruction to display the determined channel state on a second display.

Official notice is taken of the fact that it is well known in the art for a second display device (e.g., television) to display the channel state of the set top box (e.g., on a window or banner of an electronic programming guide, the channel number to which the set-top box is tuned is indicated), and to include a corresponding instruction, for the purpose of keeping the user informed of the channel to which the set-top box is tuned.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Frett, Sprole and Klosterman to include a second display configured to display the set top box channel state and corresponding instruction, for the purpose of keeping the user informed of the channel to which the set-top box is tuned.

10. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim, Klosterman, Frett and Sprole as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,580,457 to Armstrong et al. (hereinafter "Armstrong").

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With regard to claim 11, Kim, Klosterman, Frett and Sprole together disclose the system of claim 10. However, they fail to disclose the array includes 32 by 16 light-sensing elements.

In an analogous art, Armstrong discloses an image sensor comprising an array of light sensing elements, and indicates the sensor array may be of any size.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the array of Kim, Klosterman, Frett and Sprole to include any number of light sensing elements, e.g., 32 by 16 light-sensing elements, as taught by Armstrong, for the purpose of optimizing the array size for a particular application.

11. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frett, Sprole and Klosterman as applied to claim 19 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,580,457 to Armstrong et al. (hereinafter "Armstrong").

With regard to claim 19, Kim, Klosterman, Frett and Sprole together disclose the system of claim 19. However, they fail to disclose the array includes 32 by 16 light-sensing elements.

In an analogous art, Armstrong discloses an image sensor comprising an array of light sensing elements, and indicates the sensor array may be of any size.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the array of Kim, Klosterman, Frett and Sprole to include any number of light sensing elements, e.g., 32 by 16 light-sensing elements, as taught by Armstrong, for the purpose of optimizing the array size for a particular application.

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### ***Conclusion***

12. The following are suggested formats for either a Certificate of Mailing or Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). The certification may be included with all correspondence concerning this application or proceeding to establish a date of mailing or transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). Proper use of this procedure will result in such communication being considered as timely if the established date is within the required period for reply. The Certificate should be signed by the individual actually depositing or transmitting the correspondence or by an individual who, upon information and belief, expects the correspondence to be mailed or transmitted in the normal course of business by another no later than the date indicated.

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Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

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\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please refer to 37 CFR 1.6(d) and 1.8(a)(2) for filing limitations concerning facsimile transmissions and mailing, respectively.



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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher M Lambrecht whose telephone number is (703) 305-8710. The examiner can normally be reached from 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached at (703) 305-4755. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Christopher M Lambrecht  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2611

CML

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "HAITRAN", is written over two horizontal lines.

**HAITRAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**